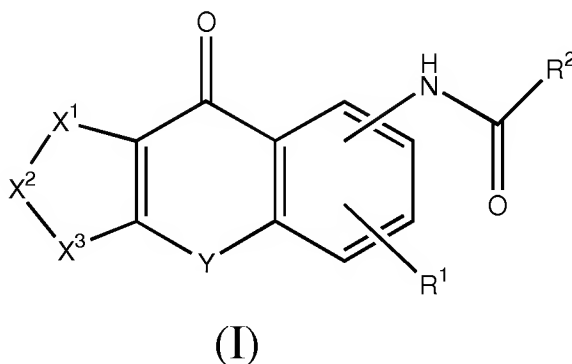a.)   <u>Amendment to the Claims</u>:

1.   (Currently Amended)   ~~An antitussive which comprises, as an active ingredient, a~~ <u>A method for alleviating a cough, which comprises administering, to a patient in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a</u> tricyclic compound represented by Formula (I)

(I)

{wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen,

X^1-X^2-X^3 represents CR^5=CR^6-CR^7=CR^8 ~~[wherein R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen], N(O)$_m$=CR^6-CR^7=CR^8 (wherein R^6, R^7 and R^8 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively and m represents 0 or 1), CR^5=CR^6-N(O)$_m$=CR^8 (wherein R^5, R^6, R^8 and m have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), CR^5=CR^6-CR^7=N(O)$_m$ (wherein R^5, R^6, R^7 and m have the same meanings as defined above, respectively),~~ CR^5=CR^6-O (wherein R^5 and R^6 ~~have the same meanings~~

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~~as defined above, respectively~~ <u>independently represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen)</u>, $CR^5=CR^6$-S ~~(wherein R^5 and R^6 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~, O-$CR^7=CR^8$ (wherein R^7 and R^8 have the same meanings as <u>R^5 and R^6</u> defined above, respectively), <u>or</u> S-$CR^7=CR^8$ ~~(wherein R^7 and R^8 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) or O-CR^7=N (wherein R^7 has the same meaning as defined above)~~,
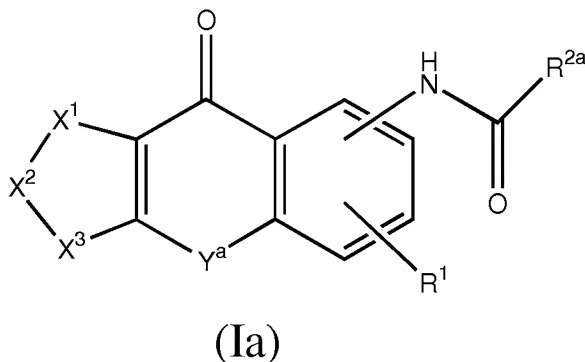
Y represents -CH_2S-, -CH_2SO-, -CH_2SO_2-, -CH_2O-, ~~-CH=CH-, -(CH$_2$)$_p$- (wherein p represents an integer of 0 to 2),~~ -SCH_2-, -$SOCH_2$-, -SO_2CH_2- or -OCH_2-, and

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, amino, mono(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group}

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An antitussive which comprises, as an active ingredient, a~~ <u>A method for alleviating a cough, which comprises administering, to a patient</u>

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in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a

tricyclic compound represented by Formula (Ia)

(Ia)

[wherein R^1 ~~and X^1-X^2-X^3 have the same meanings as defined above,~~

~~respectively,~~ represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,

substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen,

X^1-X^2-X^3 represents CR^5=CR^6-O (wherein R^5 and R^6 independently

represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted

or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower

alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen),

Y^a represents -CH$_2$SO$_2$-, -SCH$_2$-, -SOCH$_2$-, -SO$_2$CH$_2$- ~~or -OCH$_2$- and~~ or
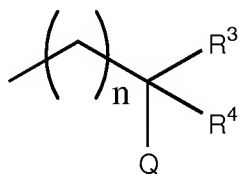
-OCH$_2$-, and

with the proviso that when Y^a is -CH$_2$SO$_2$-, -SCH$_2$-, -SOCH$_2$- or -SO$_2$CH$_2$-,

then

R^{2a} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,

substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy,

amino, mono(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroalicyclic group, or a substituted or unsubstituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group and

with the proviso that when Y^a is -OCH_2-, then

R^{2a} represents a hydrogen atom, trifluoromethyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, amino, mono(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroalicyclic group, a substituted or unsubstituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, or Formula (II)

(II)

(wherein n is 0 or 1; R^3 and R^4 may be the same or different and represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, or R^3 and R^4 may be combined together with the adjacent carbon atom thereto to form

cycloalkyl; and Q represents hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, amino or halogen)]

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 2, wherein Y^a is $-CH_2SO_2-$, $-SCH_2-$, $-SOCH_2-$ or $-SO_2CH_2-$.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 2, wherein Y^a is $-OCH_2-$.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to claim 2, wherein Y^a is $-CH_2SO_2-$, $-SO_2CH_2-$ or $-OCH_2-$ and R^1 is a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen.
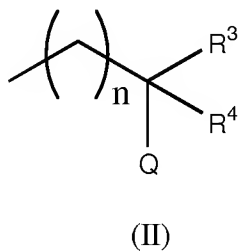
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to claim 2, wherein Y^a is $-CH_2SO_2-$ or $-SO_2CH_2-$ and R^1 is a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to claim 2, wherein Y^a is $-CH_2SO_2-$ and R^1 is a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein X^1-X^2-X^3 is S-CR^7=CR^8 (wherein R^7 and R^8 ~~have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ <u>independently represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen).</u>

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein R^{2a} is Formula (II)

(II)

~~(wherein n, R³, R⁴ and Q have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).~~
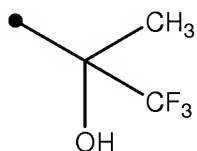
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to Claim 12, wherein n is 0.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to Claim 13, wherein R^3 is methyl, R^4 is trifluoromethyl, and Q is hydroxy.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ <u>method</u> according to Claim 2, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, Y^a is $-CH_2SO_2-$, $X^1-X^2-X^3$ is $S-CR^7=CR^8$ (wherein R^7 and R^8 ~~have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ <u>independently represent a</u>
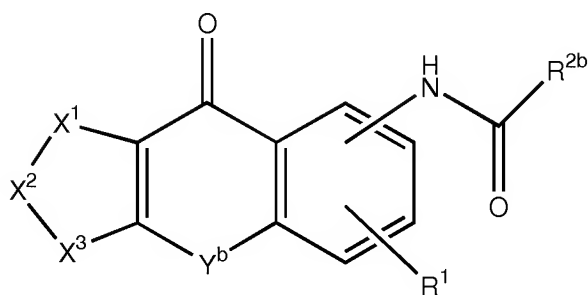
hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or

unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower

alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen),

and

R^2 is Formula (III)

(III)   .

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An antitussive which comprises, as an active~~

~~ingredient, a~~ A method for alleviating of a cough, which comprises administering, to a

patient in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a
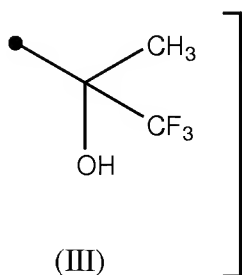
tricyclic compound represented by Formula (Ib)

(Ib)

[wherein R^1 ~~and X¹-X²-X³ have the same meanings as defined above,~~ ~~respectively~~ represents a halogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen,

X^1-X^2-X^3 represents $CR^5=CR^6$-O, $CR^5=CR^6$-S, O-$CR^7=CR^8$, or S-CR^7+CR^8 (wherein R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen, and R^7 and R^8 have the same meaning as R^5 and R^6, respectively,

Y^b represents ~~-CH₂O-, -CH₂S-, -CH₂SO-, -CH=CH- or -(CH₂)ₚ- (wherein p~~ ~~has the same meaning as defined above)~~ -CH_2O-, -CH_2S- or -CH_2SO-, and

R^{2b} represents Formula (III)

(III)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 16, wherein X^1-X^2-X^3 is CR^5=CR^6-O ~~(wherein R^5 and R^6 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively~~ or CR^5=CR^6-S ~~(wherein R^5 and R^6 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 16, wherein X^1-X^2-X^3 is O-CR^7=CR^8 ~~(wherein R^7 and R^8 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively~~ or S-CR^7=CR^8 ~~(wherein R^7 and R^8 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of ~~Claims 16 to 19~~ Claims 16, 18 and 19, wherein Y^b is -CH_2O-.

Claims 21-24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of ~~Claims 16 to 19~~ Claims 16, 18 and 19, wherein Y^b is -CH_2S- or -CH_2SO-.

Claims 26-27 (Cancelled).